



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

25 FEBRUARY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Merced County – More than \$1 Million Found during Traffic Stop in Merced County

(U) California Highway Patrol officers say a traffic stop in the Los Banos area led to the arrest of a driver after more than \$1 million in narcotics was found inside the vehicle. On 11 February, a CHP officer stopped a 2015 Hyundai Sonata for following too close on northbound Interstate 5. During the stop, the officer reportedly noticed multiple factors that led him to believe the driver was engaged in criminal activity. A K-9 alerted the officer to the odor of narcotics while performing an exterior sniff of the vehicle. The officer searched the vehicle and located about 15 pounds of counterfeit oxycodone pills that were believed to contain fentanyl. The driver, identified as Jesus Ochoa, 33, of Mesa, Washington, was arrested on suspicion of possession of narcotics for sale and transporting narcotics across non-contiguous counties, according to authorities.

SOURCE: 23 February 2022, [Merced Sun-Star](#)

(U) Roseville – Man Suspected of Manufacturing Counterfeit Drugs and Mailing Around the Country

(U) An investigation sparked by a suspicious vehicle investigation in Roseville led police to uncover a large counterfeit drug operation that was allegedly sending packages all over the country. In January, Roseville police say officers responded to investigate a driver possibly under influence of drugs. The driver was identified as Roseville resident Anthony Coates, 26. Officers searched him and his vehicle, finding about .25 pounds of meth and several pounds of drug making materials like suspected powdered fentanyl, meth, binding agents, pill press dies, and other materials. Detectives soon severed a search warrant to a location in Roseville as a follow-up to the investigation, which revealed several items related to counterfeit drug production.

SOURCE: 24 February 2022, [CBS13](#)

(U) San Diego – Law Enforcement Investigating Explosion at Hotel Near Airport

(U) Federal law enforcement agents and San Diego police were investigating the detonation of an explosive device—possibly a pipe bomb—yesterday morning inside a Kearny Mesa hotel, authorities said. Investigators released images of two men described as “persons of interest” in the explosion and sought help from the public to identify the men. The blast did not cause any injuries, and is still being investigated.

SOURCE: 24 February 2022, [San Diego Union Tribune](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas – Over \$360K Worth of Marijuana Seized by Border Patrol

(U) Edinburg – Rio Grande Valley Sector (RGV) Border Patrol agents interdicted a narcotics smuggling attempt resulting in the seizure of 451 pounds of marijuana. Yesterday morning, an RGV agent observed a Chevrolet Sport Utility Vehicle being loaded with narcotics south of Sullivan City, Texas. McAllen Border Patrol Station agents were advised and attempted to conduct a vehicle stop. The driver refused

UNCLASSIFIED

to stop, and a pursuit ensued. The pursuit came to an end when the driver veered off into a private property and bailed out. Agents searched the immediate area for the suspect, but he was not located. A search of the vehicle resulted in the seizure of 39 bundles of marijuana weighing 451 pounds and valued at over \$360K.

SOURCE: 24 February 2022, [CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Maine – Man Discussed Attacking Places of Worship with Explosives

(U) Portland – Federal law enforcement authorities say an 18-year-old charged in Maine with having explosive devices discussed plans to travel to Chicago to attack houses of worship. Prosecutors say Xavier Pelkey, of Waterville, was in communication with two juveniles about his plans to attack a mosque, and possibly a synagogue, as well. Court documents indicate federal agents discovered the improvised devices in his backpack during a search of Pelkey's apartment.

SOURCE: 24 February 2022, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Minnesota – Three Former Minneapolis Police Officers Found Guilty in George Floyd Case

(U) Minneapolis – Three former Minneapolis police officers have been found guilty of violating the civil rights of George Floyd, a Black man whose death at the hands of police in 2020 spurred protests against systemic racism around the world. The former officers, J. Alexander Kueng, Thomas Lane and Tou Thao, were charged with depriving Floyd of his civil rights while acting under government authority. Kueng and Thao faced an additional charge of not intervening to stop their fellow officer, Derek Chauvin, from using excessive force. They had pleaded not guilty.

SOURCE: 24 February 2022, [NBC](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Columbia – Armed Forces Reportedly Kill 23 FARC Dissidents, Including One Leader

(U) Arauca – A bombardment carried out by Colombia's armed forces killed 23 FARC dissidents yesterday as part of a military offensive to seize control of an area in Colombia's Arauca province, the government said. Military planes and helicopters took part in the bombardment in the municipality of Puerto Rondon. Jorge Eliecer Jimenez, known as Arturo, the FARC dissident commander in Arauca, was among the dead.

SOURCE: 25 February 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) Ukraine – Cybersecurity Officials Say Ukrainian Military is Being Targeted by Belarusian Hackers

(U) Kyiv – Ukrainian cybersecurity officials say hackers from neighboring Belarus are targeting the private email addresses of Ukrainian military personnel “and related individuals.” In an announcement posted to Facebook, Ukraine's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) said the hackers were using password-stealing emails to break into Ukrainian soldiers' email accounts and using the compromised address books to send further malicious messages. The CERT said blamed a group codenamed “UNC1151” for the hacking, identifying its members as Minsk-based officers of Belarusian military.

SOURCE: 25 February 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.